

Sunday Advertiser

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SUNDAY : : : : : DECEMBER 13

THE PANAMA CANAL.

There is now a fair prospect that the construction of the Panama Canal, more important to Hawaii than to any islands in the midway Pacific, will shortly be resumed and pushed to a conclusion. The feasibility and the superior advantages of this canal have been demonstrated by the Walker Canal Commission, which reported in favor of that route, if the work already done and the rights of the French Company could be purchased for forty million dollars.

A glance at the map of North and South America will show that the Isthmus of Panama is a narrow connecting link between two continents, unsurpassed in situation as an international highway, and geographically and politically no natural section of the United States of Colombia. Opposition to the treaty, which was signed in Washington, November 18th, 1903, and has been enthusiastically ratified in Panama, has practically ceased, but some of the criticisms on the course of the Government were actually grotesque. It was assumed, for a time, that the Administration had gone into the filibustering business and was responsible for the secession of Panama and all the important events that followed.

The fact is that the action of the Government, though firm, decided and prompt, was conservative and within the strictest construction of its legal and international rights. The unanimity with which the great powers have recognized the new Republic of Panama would in itself be sufficient evidence of this fact. But the individual citizen, apart from such cogent proof, can easily satisfy himself. The treaty of 1846 between the United States and New Granada, which then embraced the new republic, gave to this government the absolute right to maintain freedom of transit on the Isthmus, and, as Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State observed in his full official explanation of the recent movement, this covenant "runs with the land," and, when, New Granada, which had dissolved its connection with Venezuela and Ecuador in 1829-30, was succeeded by the United States of Colombia, the obligations and the rights under the treaty were undisturbed.

When the struggle between the Nicaragua and Panama routes was pending before Congress, and the French Company had agreed to sell to the United States for forty millions, the assurances of the Colombian Government of its readiness to sanction the purchase and to give the United States exclusive and effective control of the canal, were all that could have been asked and were several times repeated. When, however, the United States had completed its agreement with the French Company, and had ratified the treaty, the Colombian Government violated its promises and was guilty of a flagrant breach of good faith, and, under the control of mercenary politicians, egged on and no doubt paid by agents of the American transcontinental railroads, it was sought to levy blackmail on the French corporation and on the United States. These were the circumstances preceding and attending the rejection of the treaty by the Colombian Senate, contrary to the wishes of the best elements of population in the Colombian Republic, and against the vital interests and the virtually unanimous sentiment of the State of Panama.

The formation of the new republic, with the assent and best wishes of the civilized world, became inevitable, and it was the international duty of the United States, as well as an obligation to its own citizens, to prevent a state of war that would have interrupted and broken free transit from ocean to ocean. It performed that duty, and without national dishonor, it could have done no less. It will now, with the endorsement of all nations, protect the Republic of Panama, and the rights it has constitutionally acquired under the new treaty, which ensure for all time the predominance of our country, the practical neutrality of the canal, and the open door on both sides of the Isthmus.

Colombia, as represented in a recent cartoon, was in the position of a dog, carrying a bone in its mouth, which it dropped on seeing the reflection of a larger bone in a river, and thus lost both. It is the old case of the biter bitten, and Panama will be profited and civilization promoted by the transaction, which does not save a dollar to this country, but enlarges its jurisdiction and its powers, and insures success in the new world enterprise. It is not probable, hardly possible, with all the powers, including the adjacent sister republics, against her, that Colombia will risk a war, but, if she does, she will find herself within the jaws of Uncle Sam, represented by the Atlantic fleet, already ready for action, and the Pacific fleet, speedily to drop its anchors in Hawaiian waters.

POLISHED IGNORANCE.

Of all the can'ts that are canted in this canting world, though the cant of patriotism is the most expensive, the cant of duty is the most disgusting. A domestic or social Pharisee, whose whole life is spent in technical lectures on duty, in which the faults and deficiencies of others are invariably illustrated by comparisons with the lecturer's egotistical standard, is worse than Pecksniff and the glaring phylacteries, on which perfections are minutely recorded, are worn on breasts that hide callousness and often viciousness that would be revolting, if they were revealed.

But it does not follow that the substance of practical duty and the necessity for high ideals do not exist. Mankind would be a sorry spectacle without the practice of the one and a gradual approach toward the other. The most important elements in human progress—in modern times carried a long way forward—are the recognition of unchangeable principle and specialization of knowledge, and the application of both to fluctuating and multiplying facts. The great transportation, manufacturing, producing and distributing systems, in which every man and every woman has a designated place, with exact obligations, all converging on definite ends, are clear evidences of these fundamental truths. In these directions there is no use for people who have a little general intelligence and a smattering of information. The unrelenting machinery of civilization throws them out of the furrows of labor, and they lie on the wayside, useless to themselves and disregarded by disciplined human energy and ambition.

It results that, in all the departments of industry, particularly in the United States, there never has been so great a number as now of trained men and women, fully identified with movement and results. There are also, in the higher circles of thought and action, in statesmanship, in literature, in the learned professions, in military and naval bodies, a multitude of illustrations of profound intellect, of precise education, of definite experience. When the German-Franco War burst into fury in the middle of the night, all Von Moltke had to do was to stretch out his hand from his bed and press a button, and instantaneously the vast military power of the German Empire began to act with the regularity of an automaton. The world of the Eighteenth Century, rich though it was in thought, in the germs of knowledge, and in strength of purpose, and greatly though it contributed to the enfranchisement of mankind, was a dwarf compared to the world of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

When, however, individuals and society, not in the grooves of positive and fruitful life, are considered, the comparison is less flattering. The increase of the means of comfortable subsistence and the accumulation of wealth have developed excessive laziness, pretension and what may be termed cultured ignorance. To every human being, who fits into the program of improvement and advancement, time is a most valuable possession, to be utilized without waste. But the principal object of the drones of each sex, separately and as socially organized, is to kill time, and this is achieved by the concentration of life upon the useless or mischievous. The excitement of gambling, real or imitated, weak and insipid phases of dissipation, endless chatter about other people, without point or occasion, the substitution, in the name of mock independence, of unregulated impulse for order and system, derision of the staid rules that govern business and well-ordered families, empty concentration on trivial or sentimental trash, are mere suggestions of the innumerable modes of de-vitalizing existence and promoting intellectual and moral suicide that money and indolence have generated. Men are not scarce, of good extraction and appearance, fine dressers, of unexceptionable manners, and superficial alertness of speech, who are nevertheless incapable of any real mental effort and as crass in their ignorance of the commonest facts of history or science or art, as their forerunners two centuries ago were of the telephone or street-railroads. And, in an age when woman is actually becoming great in her industry and her organization, there are thousands of beautiful faces and graceful forms, gowned with superlative art, full of vivacity and grace, charming and even fascinating in their intercourse with each other and with the responsive sex, and yet with minds, capable it is true of genuine cultivation, but fallow, inert, irresponsible and uninformed. It would be a distinct gain for civilization, if an American common school education, the ability to answer a few questions within the range of moderate information, could be prescribed as a necessity for the unemployed, of all stations, and as a condition for social prominence or distinction. This simple test of capacity would not involve pharisaical scrutiny or interfere with those lighter recreations and pleasures that have a tonic and invigorating effect.

As humanity pursues its endless and tiresome climb towards the heights

of sublimity perfection, it is apparent that the numbers of the unproductive, the indolent, the vapid, the demoralizing, the reckless, the destructive units in the mass, generation by generation must decrease. It is an inherent quality of progress to reject the superfluous and to absorb fertility and all the stimulants of growth. American aspiration and power, as in many other directions, in this respect also, will lead the onward and upward march.



Honolulu always begins to quarrel when the South wind blows. On the Atlantic seaboard of America the East wind sets people by the ears; here it is the wind that comes up from the equator, the one the natives call the "sick wind." Everybody feels out of sorts after a day of it; insomnia gets in its work; the motives of people look dark and devilish, and then things are ripe for revolution, civil war, upheavals in court and a general town meeting. What is needed for the peace of this community is a steady trade wind accompanied by a mild touch of frost to open the chestnut burrs. When that time comes I shall expect to see General MacArthur a guest of the German Club, Governor Carter and Henry E. Cooper having a marshmallow roast together on the beach, McCants Stewart and Birbe comparing notes as to noble lineage at a Y. M. C. A. sociable and Judge Gear, Lawyer Kinney, the Editor of the Advertiser and A. S. Humphreys entertaining the Cousins' Society and the Home Rule Legislature at a pink tea.

Apologies of recent events could anything be more interesting than this report from the Chicago Record-Herald under date of Jan. 27, 1903, of General MacArthur's international views. Here is the report, headlines and all:

EUROPE CONSPIRING.

General MacArthur Sees Foreign Invasion.

Old World Anxious to Rend Western Hemisphere.

Army Man's Speech Startles Potomac Society Guests.

Question of America's Self-Restraint is Held of Vast Importance.

S. E. Gross Follows With Analysis of Venezuelan Affair.

Young Telegraphs from Washington That Duties Detain Him.

Charges of a European conspiracy to disrupt the western hemisphere couched by Major General MacArthur in the cautious language of a diplomat, found pointed elaboration with reference to the pending Venezuelan imbroglio a moment later at the annual banquet of the Western society, Army of the Potomac, last night. President S. E. Gross intimated that Major General S. B. M. Young's absence from the function was occasioned by urgent duties at Washington, relative to the South American tangle.

"A question is being propounded throughout the world today," said General MacArthur, "which is being discussed with secret satisfaction in hostile cabinets, with a view, no doubt, to combined action calculated to introduce discord into this hemisphere whenever a propitious moment shall arise to encourage such interference."

This startling utterance from the general commanding the department of the lakes, sent a thrill of unusual interest through the banquet hall of the Sherman house, but the succeeding statement intensified the eagerness of General MacArthur's auditors.

"The question is," he continued, "whether a self-governing nation as rich and populous as the United States will be able to resist the strain which must inevitably arise as a logical consequence of its own great prosperity. We can answer that question with calm assurance."

The speaker turned a moment later to a discussion of American resources from a patriotic and military viewpoint, but the pregnant references to foreign machinations against the western hemisphere lingered in the minds of the banqueters, to be stirred into new meaning by President Gross, the toastmaster, at the conclusion of General MacArthur's speech.

Tourist travel, Mr. Klebahn says, is better at this time of year than it has been before for a long while. He thinks it significant of good things for Honolulu. Big steamers are getting ready to go into commission, and these will naturally help along the tourist business on their own account.

No reporter described the vicissitudes of the military drama at the Orpheum last week—the time they put on Northern Lights. There was a company of Camp McKinley men on the stage to do the fighting and the way the soldiers burnt powder was a caution to the Fourth of July. One enlisted man got so excited that, when the curtain fell, he was caught outside. He tried to force his way between the curtain and the proscenium frame but a rigid iron rod or heavy wire prevented. People on and off the stage yelled to him to go through the door, a few feet away, but the soldier, with the audience shouting at him, got the blind staggers and couldn't find the door. He had to be literally hauled in by the nape of the neck through a portal that stared him in the face. Another funny thing was the attempt to use a horse on the little Orpheum stage. When the beast turned around its tail nearly switched the orchestra leader off his chair; and if the noble charger had backed a foot it would have toppled over and sat on the bass drum.

The other day I read in an evening paper that it, alone by itself, had made all the desirable innovations in local journalism. With pain I recalled the fact that it had never had an artist or a picture; that it had regularly employed no Washington correspondent; that when the latest news came to the islands by Associated Press mail special it was the only one of four dailies that did not take it; that it had organized no library of clippings or of indexed files. Now the paper is a good one and is not lacking in enterprise, but I object to having it claim all the halos in sight. There are others when it comes to a show-down.

Dr. McGrew's birthday is an impending social function. The Doctor is 83 or 84 years young and bids fairly to have more birthdays than he will know what to do with. Whenever one comes, Honolulu, headed by the band, turns out to do the Doctor honor and to incidentally learn whether his mixing hand has lost its cunning. It is astonishing how every year renews the doctor's youth. He can jump on or off a car with the agility of a motorman and can tell whether a woman is good-looking or not without the use of spectacles. If he keeps on getting younger he will soon pass below 21 and lose his vote, thus costing the Democratic party one-ninth of its voting strength.

The lawyers are busy discussing the manner in which they are to make a test case of the county act, in accordance with the views of the community as expressed in the mass meeting Friday night. Said one young member of the bar yesterday, "I imagine that the best scheme would be to run the thing somewhat on the order of a spelling bee. Have the Bar Association choose two leaders, Achi on one side, Stewart on the other perhaps, and let them draw for sides. Then each participant in the game can file a brief in the Supreme Court and the side which is able to stand up the longest wins out. It would be a great game that way and just about as decisive as anything else."

There are faint rumors from the back lands to the effect that the Oahu

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COMMERCIAL NEWS

County government has been the chief topic of the discussion in the commercial world during the past week and it is likely to occupy the attention of business men for some months to come. The one thing that stands out as prominent in all the discussions is the fact that Hawaii will inaugurate her county government on January 4th, without any assurance of its stability, for it is generally taken as certain that neither Congress or the Supreme Court will act in the matter until after the Christmas holidays.

What is equally certain is that the counties will start business on January 4th, without a cent to their credit, which, however, is a good deal better condition of affairs than prevails in many of the older communities on the mainland. Treasurer Kekoikai was asked yesterday how much money he expected to have on hand, January 4th, to turn over to the counties. "Not a bean," was his emphatic reply. Treasurer Kekoikai hopes, however, to have some money available for the use of the counties after the first month.

Treasurer Kekoikai's statement of Territorial finances made to Governor Carter for December 10th shows a balance in the treasury amounting to over \$300,000, a good portion of which is likely to be paid out before the counties are given an opportunity of laying hands upon it. This report is as follows:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—DECEMBER 10, 1903.

Current Account—	
Balance December 10, 1903.....	\$ 295,305.55
Fire Claims Account—	
Balance December 10, 1903.....	14,617.49
Total December 10, 1903.....	309,923.04
Warrants. Current Account—	
Outstanding Warrants November 1, 1903.....	748,993.62
Warrants drawn for month of November 1, 1903.....	212,988.21
Warrants drawn December 5, 1903.....	26,477.09
Warrants drawn December 10, 1903.....	34,957.83
Total Warrants.....	\$ 1,023,416.75
Warrants paid in November, 1903, and entries made.....	\$886,906.44
Warrants paid to and including Dec. 10, 1903, to be entered.....	69,830.19
Total Warrants paid.....	\$ 956,736.63
Total Warrants outstanding December 10, 1903.....	\$ 66,680.12
Fire Claims Account—	
Balance December 10, 1903, as above.....	14,617.49
Warrants paid, to be entered.....	10,728.56
Balance December 10, 1903.....	\$ 3,888.93
Loan Fund—	
Warrants drawn Dec 5, 1903, as reported by the Audit Office.....	1,852.63
Warrants drawn Dec. 10, 1903, as reported by the Audit Office.....	8,103.14
Total Warrants outstanding December 10, 1903.....	\$ 9,955.77
Obligations to be Paid—	
Treasury Note due Dec. 11, 1903.....	\$ 3,000.00
Interest Note due Dec. 11, 1903.....	70.00
Treasury Note due Dec. 15, 1903.....	8,000.00
Interest Note due Dec. 15, 1903.....	160.00
Six months interest on bonds held in San Francisco, amounting to \$110,000 with commission and exchange, to be remitted about December 20, 1903.....	2,761.69
Total.....	\$ 13,991.69
Special Deposits—	
Road Tax.....	\$ 18,753.47
Land Sales.....	16,652.54
Money Order.....	2,271.15
1891-3 Warrants.....	54.30
	\$ 37,731.46

A. N. KEPOIKAI,

Treasurer.

The Governor's retrenchment policy, by the way, is being much commented on and commended. It is realized that the legislature made many appropriations which need not necessarily be used, and it is also taken as a good lesson in economy for the counties. Nearly all the Departments may be reduced still further than was contemplated by the legislature, without materially decreasing the efficiency of the government and although some very proper works may suffer there is no other way out of the difficulties with which the Territory is now confronted.

The counties have no other recourse than economy open to them. Unless the banks come to their relief they will have to operate for the first few months without means of any kind. The recently elected officers are already figuring on doing without their salaries for the first six months of the year, and that is very likely what will be the result unless the status of the county act is finally settled soon. The taxes will begin coming in in March and with the income from licenses and special taxes, the counties might be able to worry along until the bulk of the taxes are paid in November, if they are given some help from the merchants. It is the merchants who are the ones most concerned in the legality of the county act, which accounts for their interest in "town meetings," and if the Bar Association does not prepare a test case, some of the merchants intend to do so.

THE GAS FRANCHISE.

Capitalists are ready to invest the money required to give Honolulu a gas system under the terms of the franchise granted by the last legislature to the late W. W. Dimond and his associates. Some time ago a representative of the California financial men interested was to have come to Honolulu to look over the ground, but it was decided later to first secure the approval of Congress, if that is deemed essential. A request has been sent to the Secretary of the Interior by local parties for a ruling as to whether the grant made by the legislature is sufficient, without a formal approval by Congress. Once this is decided it is expected that work in laying the mains and establishing the plant will not be long delayed.

FUEL AS OIL.

The limit is said to have been practically reached in the use of oil for fuel on Hawaiian plantations. Nearly all of the plantations on both Oahu and Maui are using fuel oil, but it is doubtful if its use will be extended to Kauai and Hawaii where the plantations do not depend upon pumping for irrigation. This is the opinion of C. C. Perkins, the agent here of the Union Oil Co., who believes the use of fuel oil has practically reached its limit on the sugar estates of Kauai unless three or four of the larger plantations agree to the use of fuel oil and there is no probability of this as long as nature keeps up a bountiful supply of rain.

It is estimated that the islands now use in the neighborhood of 50,000 barrels of fuel oil monthly, nearly all of which is furnished by the Union Oil Co. This company supplies oil to the Hawaiian Commercial, Kihai, Haiku and Paia plantations on Maui and to Ewa, Waialua and Kahuku on this island. The Pacific Oil Transportation Co. supplies oil to two of the Oahu plantations, Oahu and Honolulu.

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THE NEW NATION

BY JAMES MONTAGUE.

Welcome, four by six republic, to the august council board,
Where the family of nations sits in such serene accord!
Such a cunning little country, and so curiously placed,
Where the winding Hemisphere is narrow in the waist.
There the earthquake shifts the landscape with the change of ev'ry moon,
And they hold four revolutions on each pleasant afternoon,
There they neither fear the winter nor the blackness of the night,
For the vomiting volcanoes furnish all with heat and light.
There the bandit deftly carves you as he trolls his "tra, la, la,"
A gladsome spot, now is it not, this pleasant Panama?

Tiny nursing of a nation, cuddling close between two seas,
Shaken sore with Chagres fever that besprinkles ev'ry breeze,
Stocked with sixteen styles of serpents, lacing all the tropic bowers,
What a great and potent ally for a weakling land like ours!
A canal we'll dig across it, using half a million men,
Though perchance some stray eruption promptly fills it up again.
And we'll surely hail Colombia with a stern and strident jeer,
If that dull, benighted country deems it wise to interfere.
While to other meddling nations we will simply say, "Ha, ha!"
And all will be tranquility in peaceful Panama?

Let fair Panama be welcomed to the nations' fireside,
It's a real all-wool republic, though not quite a full yard wide.
There'll be always something doing that will put dull care to rout,
While it's still transacting business, and its two-star flag hangs out.
Since Balboa first set foot upon its wildly tossing plain,
And the shakes and snakes and fever made him long for dear old Spain,
There has never been a moment in that agitated land
When some seven kinds of trouble were not constantly on hand.
So we'll cheer the new republic with a lusty "Rah, rah, rah!"
A truly great and glorious State is placid Panama!